

28. (Amended) A device for connecting an electrode from a lamp to a wire having a conductive core, comprising:

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an elongated body part comprised of a flexible, conductive material, said elongated body part having two pairs of arms and an opening near an end of said elongated body part, wherein a first pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated body part to meet the wire, wherein said first pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the wire, wherein a second pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated body part to meet the conductive core, wherein said second pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the conductive core, and wherein said opening is dimensioned to receive the electrode.

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 18-31 are pending in the subject application. Those claims all stand finally rejected. However, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The 22 February 2001 Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Additionally, claims 18-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time of the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The terms in question are "shell," "elongated first body," and "elongated second body" (for both the objection and the rejection), and "arms" and "snap-fit arms" (for the rejection). In response, while the shell of a lamp is clearly shown in Figure 2, the term "shell" is deleted from the pending claims.

However, the drawing objections and the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejections are respectfully traversed. First, the 22 February 2001 Office Action incorrectly recites some of the terms at issue. The pending claims use the terms "elongated first body *part*" and "elongated second body *part*." Those features are clearly shown in Figures 5-7. Furthermore, Figures 5 and 6 show arms, and the discussion of those figures discuss snap-fitting.

The Examiner also stated that the title of the invention was not descriptive, and that a new title clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed is required. In response, the title is changed to --ELECTRODE TO WIRE CONNECTING DEVICE--.

The subject Office Action also rejected claims 5, 23-25, and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt Jr. (US 5,610,472) in view of Maejima (US 5,897,396). Furthermore, the subject Office action rejected claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt Jr. (US 5,610,472) and Maejima (US 5,897,396) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art; rejected claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt Jr. (US 5,610,472) and Maejima (US 5,897,396) and Applicant's admitted prior art, and in further view of Murphy; and rejected claims 26, 27, 30, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt Jr. (US 5,610,472) and Maejima (US 5,897,396), and further in view of Murphy. With all respect to the Examiner, those rejections are traversed.

All of the pending claims stand rejected based on at least Schmitt Jr. (US 5,610,472) and Maejima (US 5,897,396). After acknowledging that Schmitt Jr. does not show a crimping portion having a pair of arms for crimping the wire and the core, the 22 February 2001 Office relies on Maejima for those elements. That Office Action asserts that Maejima includes arms 27 crimped to the core and arms 19 crimped on the sheath of the wires. However, Maejima

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describes element 19 only as a "rubber clamping piece" (see Maejima, column 7, lines 8-10). Thus, Maejima does not include arms crimped on the sheath of the wires. Therefore, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached version is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

As the Applicant believes that the subject application is in condition for allowance, an early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 624-1285 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

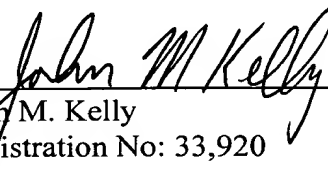
If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

LONG, ALDRIDGE & NORMAN

Date: March 21, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

The title has been amended as follows:

-- ELECTRODE TO WIRE CONNECTING DEVICE--.

In the claims:

--18. (Amended) A device for connecting an electrode from a lamp [shell] to a wire having a conductive core, comprising:

an elongated first body part comprised of a flexible, conductive material, said elongated first body part having two pairs of arms; and

an elongated second body part integrally connected to said elongated first body part at an angle, said elongated second body part comprised of said flexible, conductive material, said elongated second body part including snap-fit arms dimensioned to receive and clamp said [shell] lamp;

wherein a first pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated first body part to meet the wire, wherein said first pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the wire, wherein a second pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated first body part to meet the conductive core, and wherein said second pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the conductive core.

23. (Amended) A device for connecting an electrode from a lamp [shell] to a wire having a conductive core, comprising:

an elongated first body part comprised of a flexible, conductive material, said

elongated first body part having two pairs of arms; and

an elongated second body part integrally connected to said elongated first body part at an angle, said elongated second body part comprised of said flexible, conductive material, said elongated second body part including snap-fit portions dimensioned to receive and clamp said electrode;

wherein a first pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated first body part to meet the wire, wherein said first pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the wire, wherein a second pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated first body part to meet the conductive core, and wherein said second pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the conductive core.

28. (Amended) A device for connecting an electrode from [the shell of] a lamp to a wire having a conductive core, comprising:

an elongated body part comprised of a flexible, conductive material, said elongated body part having two pairs of arms and an opening near an end of said elongated body part, wherein a first pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated body part to meet the wire, wherein said first pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the wire, wherein a second pair of said arms are positioned on said elongated body part to meet the conductive core, wherein said second pair of said arms are bendable to clinch the conductive core, and wherein said opening is dimensioned to receive the electrode.--